140. Notopterus chitala, H. Buch.

Chitul (Ooriah).

B. viii.–ix. D. $\frac{1}{7\text{-}9}$. P. 19. V. 6. A. 110–125. C. 11. L. l. 180. Cæc. pyl. 2.

Hab. Rivers and tanks in Orissa.

141. Notopterus kapirat, Lacép.

Pulli, "a slice" (Ooriah).

B. vi.–viii. D. $\frac{1}{8}$. P. 17. V. 6. A. 100–108. C. 13. L. l. 225. Vert. $\frac{15}{54}$.

Hab. Fresh waters of Orissa.

142. Symbranchus cuchia, H. Buch.

Hab. This Eel is not rare in the rivers of Orissa.

143. Trygon uarnak, Forsk.

Sankush (Ooriah).

This fish ascends the Mahanuddi as high as Cuttack. The spine on its tail is very much dreaded by the fishermen.

144. Microphis cunculus, H. Buch.

Kunnur dant (Ooriah), "Crocodile's tooth.

The Ooriah natives say that these little pipefishes have some mysterious connexion with the teeth of the Crocodile, some fishermen asserting them to be vivified teeth, others that they are rejected tooth-picks.

145. Tetrodon potoca, H. Buch.

Bheng pulli (Ooriah).

Hab. Found at Cuttack in rivers and tanks.

146. Tetrodon gularis, H. Buch.

Teepah benki (Ooriah).

This species is still more common than the preceding, and at long distances inland.

Besides the foregoing, I took several specimens of the Common Ganges Shark as far inland as Cuttack, and a species of *Pristis*, which I have not as yet identified.

4. Additional Remarks on the *Megascolex diffringens*.

By W. Baird, M.D., F.R.S. &c.

Since I sent to the Society, last January*, a short account of a new species of Earth-worm (*Megascolex diffringens*), found in the hot-bed for stove-plants in the garden of Plas Machynlleth, in

* Vide *anteà* p. 40.

North Wales, I have had several specimens of the same species of worm forwarded to me from a similar habitat, viz. a stove-bed for hothouse plants in the garden of Lady Cullum, at Hardwick House, near Bury St. Edmunds, in Suffolk. I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Maxwell Masters, editor of the 'Gardeners' Chronicle,' for the first intimation of the creature's existence in Suffolk; and since then, a letter from the intelligent gardener at Hardwick House, Mr. D. S. Fish, explains to me the particular localities in which he has found this worm, and gives some very interesting information with regard to its habits and manners. In his letter to me Mr. Fish says that he has known the worm for about twenty years, and that from its peculiar motions he has always called it the *eel-worm*. This name applies very well to its particular wriggling movements, and answers exactly to the description given by my first correspondent, Mr. Johnstone, of Machynlleth. Mr. Fish says, in the letter mentioned above, "I first made acquaintance with this worm, twenty years ago, at Glevering Hall, near Woodbridge, in the eastern division of this county. I have only met with it there and at this place (Hardwick House). It was found among tropical plants, and is limited in its range by the temperature. I have not found it among greenhouse plants, and it seems incapable of subsisting out of doors. It differs from other worms in the following particulars. At night it will come out and travel along bare walls and clean stones with great rapidity, and without apparent inconvenience. When disturbed it vanishes at once, and is thus difficult to destroy. Again, on turning out a plant infected with worms of the common sort, they are readily brought to the surface of the ball by tapping or vibrating the mass of earth. We imagine that the worms anticipate *moles*, and so rush to the surface to escape; they thus become a ready prey to us. But these worms, unless seized at once, make for the centre of the ball the moment they are disturbed, and thus avoid detection and destruction. Again, you will observe they differ wholly in the rate and manner of their locomotion. They are also much more destructive. I cannot say that they eat the roots: I think not; but they speedily render the soil incapable of supporting them in health. They appear to eat out its centre stamina, causing it to undergo a species of putrefaction. They seem fonder than the common worm of getting down among the potsherds and crocks at the bottom of the pots, and they speedily work down among them to the complete destruction of the drainage. Lastly, the plants show signs of distress sooner under the infliction of these worms than any other. The roots decay, the leaves turn yellow, and the whole life becomes as it were paralyzed. It seems to affect their vitality somewhat as heart-disease affects animal life. Every vital function loses force; and unless the worms are destroyed, the contest ends in the destruction of the plant.

"It is most difficult to eradicate this worm. It is evidently of foreign origin and is far from common; but once established it breeds rapidly in heat, and is not easily destroyed by the usual remedies of lime-water &c." Mr. Fish's supposition that this

worm is a foreign importation is what I have already, in my previous paper, suggested. The chief habitats for worms of this peculiar genus are Ceylon and India. We have specimens also of a species from Australia. In a second letter from Mr. Fish, dated April 9th, he further says, as to its foreign origin, "I think it probable the worms come from the Cape of Good Hope, or some part of Africa. The proprietor of Glevering Hall, where I first met them, was a great fancier of bulbs and imported a good many; and it was in a large *Crinum-amabile* pot that I first found the worm. My theory is that they came from Glevering here (Hardwick House), as it is quite possible that plants may have been exchanged between the two places." "They seem to have no fear of moles, as when disturbed they rush inwards, and not outwards as our common worm always does." Mr. Fish, in repeating that he has known this worm for twenty years, says that he has observed it for the last fourteen years at Hardwick House.

I have very little doubt that this curious worm will be found in various gardens throughout Great Britain.

5. On Dr. Gray's Genus *Theonella*.

By J. S. Bowerbank, LL.D., F.R.S., F.Z.S., &c.

On October the 23rd, 1868, I visited the British Museum for the purpose of reexamining some of the Siliceo-fibrous Sponges before sending my paper on that subject to this Society; and I then saw, for the first time, the specimen from Formosa sent by Mr. Swinhoe. I pointed it out to Dr. Baird, and expressed my wish to examine it. He forthwith conveyed it to the entomological department, where I closely inspected its structures and satisfied myself that it was a specimen of my previously named *Dactylocalyx Prattii*; and as such I have alluded to it in the first part of my paper on the Siliceo-fibrous Sponges, which was read at the meeting of this Society, January 28, 1869. I was not then aware that Dr. Gray had read a paper on the Formosan Sponge on November 12, 1868, immediately after my inspection of it at the British Museum. I received my copy of the 'Proceedings' of the Society on the 28th of April last, and I then saw Dr. Gray's description of the Formosan specimen under the designation of "Note on *Theonella*, a new genus of Coralloid Sponges from Formosa," P. Z. S. 1868, p. 565, and a very excellent woodcut of the sponge, p. 566.

Having previously become well acquainted with the specimen, I was somewhat surprised to see it designated as a new genus. The author's generic characters are ample enough it is true, as he embraces not only external form and the skeleton-structure, but every other character with which he became acquainted; but unfortunately he describes the anatomical structure so incorrectly as to inevitably lead the student into doubt and difficulty in the very first stage of